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Paramount Selected to Manage Bulgarian Philatelic Programs

Two agreements between Paramount International Coin Corporation and FTO Hemus, the authorized agency of the government of Bulgaria, have been signed giving Paramount exclusive distribution rights for two Bulgarian philatelic programs. The agreements were signed at Paramount's International headquarters in Englewood, Ohio by Max J. Humbert, President and Chairman of the Board of Paramount, and Ivan Boudinov, Director General of FTO Hemus.

Also present for the signing of the historic agreement were Ivan Gospodinov, Commercial Counselor with the Office of the Commercial Counselor to the Bulgarian Embassy and Stanley Morycz, Vice-President, Rare Products for Paramount.

One of the agreements is for the distribution of postal stamps, souvenir sheets and Official First Day Covers issued by the Ministry of Communications of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to commemorate the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympic Games.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Ministry of Communications will issue six series of Olympic stamps, each series consisting of six postal stamps and one souvenir sheet. The themes of five of the series will be various summer Olympic sports competitions.

An important aspect of Bulgarian interest in the 1980 Moscow Olympics is that Bulgaria lies between Marathon, Greece, and Moscow, USSR along the route that the Olympic Flame will travel when it is carried by runners to Moscow in 1980 to open the Games.

The sixth series of Bulgarian Olympic stamps will commemorate the route the Flame will take across Bulgaria when it is carried from Greece to Moscow. The series will be issued during the week the Flame is actually being carried through Bulgaria. The souvenir sheet in this series will depict a map of the Flame's travel through Bulgaria.

The issues of these Olympic stamps will be limited to what can be considered a very small quantity by normal

(Continued on page 4)

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have received an increasing number of inquiries from friends and customers asking how they could go to Moscow and see the 1980 Olympic Games. Unsure how to answer these questions, I turned to Afton Tours in New York City. Here is what they told me:

Hotel space in Moscow during the 1980 Olympics will be extremely limited. The current projections of available rooms for visitors from the United States, according to the Russian Travel Bureau (RTB), is only 8,000 beds per day in Moscow.

To accommodate as many Olympic visitors as possible, RTB has designed two tours: A 15-day visit for approximately $1550 per person and a 22-day visit for approximately $1850 per person. These prices are based on double occupancy and are approximate projections subject to change.

Features of the 15-day and 22-day tours include accommodations, most meals, transatlantic air transportation, domestic transportation within the U.S.S.R., sightseeing excursions, theatre, guides and transfers. In addition to Moscow, the 15-day tours will include stays in two other cities. The 22-day tours include more than two additional Soviet cities.

Based upon the tour costs outlined above, the Russian Travel Bureau has created an installment program for paying the tour fees with the final payment due not later than January 15, 1980.

No guarantees can be made as to the specific class of accommodation, travel arrangements or the number and type of Olympic Event tickets available. However, selection of Event tickets will be made on the basis of multiple choices and RTB will attempt to match participants requests with available ticket and Event allotments.

Due to space limitations, I have mentioned only the barest outline of the tours. However, I would like to stress that only a few spaces are still available for Olympic tourists from the United States. If you are seriously considering going to the Olympic Games in Moscow and would like the complete story of the 15-day and 22-day tours, please write to:

Mr. Arthur A. Cipullo
Afton Tours, Inc.
Dept. O.T.
1776 Broadway
New York, N.Y. 10019

P.S. Please do not confuse the above information on the 1980 Olympic Games tours with the information on the Pre-Olympic SPARTAKIADE Games tours enclosed in your Journal package.

JOURNAL

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ON OUR COVER

Ivan Gospodinov, Max Humbert and Stanley Morycz (L to R) look on as Ivan Boudinov signs the agreement making Paramount the exclusive distributor for two upcoming Bulgarian philatelic programs.

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The Philaserdica souvenir sheet features classic stamps from many nations. The sheet commemorates a world stamp convention in Sofia, Bulgaria. (Artist's rendition)

standards. With a total of 35 stamps depicting athletic events, the Bulgarian Olympic stamp program is expected to be the largest outside the host country commemorating 1980 Olympic sports. With so few stamps being issued, demand for these issues is expected to be far greater than the supply that will be available for distribution, particularly in light of the popularity of the 1980 Olympics. Official quantities of these stamps to be made available for distribution will be announced at a later date.

The first series of Bulgarian Olympic stamps were issued in March, with additional series issued every three months thereafter through July of 1980.

The second agreement signed by Humbert and Boudinov makes Paramount the official distributor of an issue of souvenir sheets commemorating a world philatelic convention to be hosted by Bulgaria in its capital city of Sofia in May, 1979. The show, called Philaserdica '79, will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the first postage stamp issued by Bulgaria.

Watch your mailbox for the official announcements and reservation instructions for these two exciting philatelic issues. And be sure to respond quickly, as the available supply will be extremely limited. ■

Collector's Glossary

Souvenir Sheet: A small sheet of stamps, usually including one value or a set surrounded by a wide margin, upon which generally appears a commemorative inscription.

Philatelics: The collection and study of postage and imprinted stamps.

Tied: A stamp is "tied" when the cancellation extends over both the stamp and the adjacent envelope or card.

First Day Cover: A cover bearing one or more stamps tied by a cancellation showing the date of the first day of issue of that stamp. The cancellations are often unique for the event.

The Bulgarian Olympic commemorative stamps honor the events of the Summer Olympics. Each series consists of six postage stamps and one souvenir sheet (shown above). (Artist's rendition)

THE DAY SMALL-SIZE CURRENCY GAINED A MOTTO

On July 11, 1955 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an Act of Congress instructing the Treasury Department to add the inscription "In God We Trust" to U.S. currency.

It was agreed that the changes in the currency designs should be made in connection with the installation in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing of new high-speed rotary presses. The new presses, built in England by Thomas De LaRue & Co., Ltd., used the dry-print method and produced 32 notes to the sheet. The older presses at the BEP produced 18-note sheets of currency by a wet-paper process.

Bearing the Congressionally-mandated motto, the first Silver Certificates featuring "In God We Trust" were placed into circulation on October 1, 1957. The motto was placed on the reverse (the green side) above the large word ONE. Additional denominations had the motto added upon the changing of a Series.

To assist the collector of small-size U.S. currency, the following chart provides a list of the first Series in each class of notes to bear the motto "In God We Trust". Notes printed prior to the indicated Series will not bear the motto. ■

The motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" was added to the back of the $1 note above the word "ONE".

THE FIRST SMALL-SIZE U.S. CURRENCY SERIES WITH MOTTO

Denomination	Series	Signatures	Friedberg Catalogue Number
SILVER CERTIFICATES — Blue Treasury Seal			
$1	1935-G*	Smith-Dillon	FR-1616
LEGAL TENDER — Red Treasury Seal			
$2	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-1513
$5	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-1536
$100	1966	Granahan-Fowler	FR-1550
FEDERAL RESERVE NOTES — Green Treasury Seal			
$1	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-1900
$2	1976	Neff-Blumenthal	
$5	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-1967
$10	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-2016
$20	1963	Granahan-Dillon	FR-2065
$50	1963-A	Granahan-Fowler	FR-2113
$100	1963-A	Granahan-Fowler	FR-2163

*Series 1935-G $1 Silver Certificates are known both with and without motto.

To distinguish the various issues of U.S. currency, observe the obverse inscriptions. Shown above (from top to bottom) are the inscriptions for a Silver Certificate, Legal Tender Note, and a Federal Reserve Note.

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE CHARLES' INVESTITURE HONORED ON HISTORIC SILVER AND GOLD COINS

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands has celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Investiture of Charles as Prince of Wales with a silver 10 crown and a gold 100 crown commemorative coin. Never before has a coin been issued featuring both an Heir Apparent to the Throne and the currently reigning Monarch.

The newly-crowned Prince of Wales immediately following the 1969 Investiture ceremony at Caernarvon Castle in Wales. The crown, donated by the Goldsmiths' Company, is gold reinforced with iridium platinum and studded with 75 diamonds and 12 emeralds.

Caernarvon, Wales; July 1st, 1969: Queen Elizabeth II formally proclaims her son Charles the 21st Prince of Wales and official heir to the Throne. The formal Investiture ceremony lasts only a short time but the celebration by the people of the British Commonwealth continues for days.

Now the governments of the Turks and Caicos Islands and Jamaica, honoring the tenth anniversary of the Investiture of Charles as Prince of Wales and formal heir to the Throne of England, have announced a limited minting of silver and gold coins of historic design and importance.

The British Crown Colony of the Turks and Caicos Islands will issue a silver 10 crown and a gold 100 crown Investiture commemorative coin. The design for these 1979-dated coins was personally approved by Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles' mother. It is an historic design, for it will be the first time that the Queen and the Crown Prince have ever appeared on the same coin. Even more significantly, it is also the first time in British history that the ruling monarch has appeared on the same coin with the heir to the Throne!

The 10 crown coin is .925 (Sterling) silver, while the 100-crown gold coin contains .2896 troy oz. of pure gold. The 10th Anniversary of Investiture coins will be struck in Proof exclusively. The maximum mintages have been firmly set at 25,000 silver proofs and 10,000 gold proofs.

The obverse of the Investiture Anniversary coins feature the Arnold Machin portrait of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II surrounded by the legend "ELIZABETH II • TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS" and the date 1979.

The one-year-only reverse design features a profile portrait of Prince Charles accompanied by the traditional and contemporary investiture regalia. The legend at the outermost portion of the reverse reads: "10TH ANNIVERSARY OF INVESTITURE OF CHARLES AS

PRINCE OF WALES" and the denomination.

The traditional regalia for the Prince of Wales investiture ceremony was designed and crafted in 1911, when the ceremony was revived after 300 years of disuse. Included among the traditional regalia is a ring formed of two dragons grasping an amethyst, the golden sceptre of government, and a sword with scabbard inscribed "I Serve".

The only contemporary piece of investiture regalia, a gold and platinum coronet (crown) studded with 75 diamonds and 12 emeralds, made especially for Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales, is also included on the coin's reverse.

Continuing the tradition of all precious metal Turks and Caicos Islands coinage, the 1979 10 and 100 crown Prince Charles Investiture commemorative coins feature the unique edge inscription: "REDEEMABLE AT TURKS AND CAICOS FOR U.S. CURRENCY". The official exchange rate is one Turks and Caicos Islands crown is equal to one United States dollar.

JAMAICA HONORS THE CROWN PRINCE

Never before — in the more than a century of coinage issues — has a member of the British Royal Family other than the ruling Monarch, appeared on a Jamaican coin.

Now, the government of Jamaica, in honoring the 10th Anniversary of the Investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales, will break 110 years of numismatic tradition by portraying Prince Charles on three precious metal coins to be issued exclusively in 1979.

But the breaking of 110 years of numismatic history is only one of the many outstanding features of the all-new 1979 Prince Charles Investiture silver and gold coins. Here's why:

- It is the first time the heir to the Throne of England has been portrayed on a Jamaican coin.
- It is the first time the Investiture Regalia, both traditional and contemporary, has been portrayed on a Jamaican coin.
- It is the first time Prince Charles has appeared on a coin wearing the Investiture Coronet and Regalia.

THE ONE YEAR ONLY COINS

The $25 commemorative silver coin will be struck on a planchet (blank) composed of 925/1000 fine silver — commonly referred to as Sterling Silver. The coin will

Personally requested by Queen Elizabeth II (the Prince's mother), the design of the 1979 Turks and Caicos Islands commemoratives feature the Investiture Regalia and a likeness of H.R.H. Prince Charles. The 100 crown coin (shown at left, actual size) contains .2896 troy oz. of pure gold and will be struck exclusively in proof.

Jamaica's Investiture Anniversary coins break 110 years of Jamaican numismatic history by portraying the Heir to the Throne of England. The 1979 $25 silver commemorative (shown above, actual size) is 63 mm in diameter and is .925 fine Sterling Silver.

The 1979 10th Anniversary of Investiture silver and gold coins will be the first ever to portray the Investiture Regalia — both traditional and contemporary. The $100 coin (shown enlarged) is 90% pure gold and contains .328 troy oz. of pure gold.

(Continued on next page)

be 63 mm in diameter and will weigh 2,100 grains. Collectors will be able to add proof and specimen uncirculated examples to their collections.

The $100 gold coin will be composed of 900/1000 (90% pure) gold. It will be 26 mm in diameter and will weigh 175 grains. All $100 gold coins struck by Jamaica in honor of the 10th Anniversary of the Investiture will be of proof quality and will contain .328 troy oz. of pure gold.

Jamaica's 1979-dated $250 coin contains exactly 1.25 troy oz. of pure gold and will be struck in proof exclusively.

The gold $250 coin is also 90% gold with a diameter of 40 mm and a weight of 667 grains. This magnificent coin will contain exactly 1.25 troy oz. of pure gold. All 1979 $250 Prince Charles Investiture gold coins will be issued in proof.

The Government of Jamaica has assigned a maximum mintage limit of 25,000 proof coins for each of the three 1979 Prince Charles Investiture commemorative issues. No mintage limit has been placed on the silver $25 specimen uncirculated coins.

DESIRABLE HISTORIC DESIGNS

The obverse of the one-year-only silver and gold coins feature Prince Charles wearing and holding the historic Prince of Wales Investiture Regalia. In his right hand is the sceptre of government. His left hand rests on the sword and scabbard, with the amethyst ring on the fourth finger. Covering his shoulders is the silk, ermine and sealskin Mantle. Atop the Crown Prince's head is the gold and platinum Coronet (crown) studded with diamonds and emeralds.

Surrounding the impressive sculpture of the Prince are the inscriptions "10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVESTITURE" and "CHARLES PRINCE OF WALES", separated by two fleur de lis.

The reverse bears the dates 1969-1979, indicating the year of Investiture and the year of issue. The denomination and country of origin complete the inscription. Jamaica's Coat of Arms and national motto, "OUT OF MANY, ONE PEOPLE", fill the central portion of the silver and gold coin's reverse.

Collectors who possess the popular 1978 Queen Elizabeth II 25th Anniversary of Coronation coins will find the 1979 10th Anniversary of Investiture commemoratives the perfect companion issues. Collectors who did not purchase the 1978 Coronation Anniversary coins will find the 1979 Investiture Anniversary commemoratives historically significant, beautiful in design and execution, and numismatically desirable.

Paramount takes considerable pride in having been selected as official agent for the Turks and Caicos Islands and Jamaican Prince Charles Investiture commemorative silver and gold coins. Watch your mail for the official announcement and notice of availability of these impressive and historic issues. ■

Collector's Glossary

Investiture: The act of establishing in office: Confirmation.

Coronet: A small or lesser crown usually signifying a rank below that of a sovereign.

Obverse: The side of a numismatic item which bears the principal design or device. Also called the "heads" side.

Reverse: The side opposite from the obverse. Also called the "tails" side.

H.R.H.: His Royal Highness, or Her Royal Highness.

OLYMPAPHIL
1980 Olympic Stamp Program

NEWSLETTER — VOL. V
SPRING, 1979

OLYMPIAD-80

Olympic fever continues to sweep through Moscow, and the 15 other cities that will either host Olympic sports competitions or the Olympic cultural program.

Olympic road signs dot the streets, Olympic cakes greet shoppers in local bakeries, and Olympic essays are the favorite class assignment in Moscow schools.

Exclusive lanes are being planned for Olympic event traffic, computerized traffic control is being readied for the most congested intersections, and subway lines are being extended and a new section opened to handle an estimated 31 million passengers a day, a 20 percent increase.

While construction continues on schedule for the Olympic sports facilities and the massive Olympic Village, others are putting the finishing touches to the traditional Olympic festival of the arts.

Construction of the multi-purpose indoor arena in Luzhniki continues on schedule.

A scene from Minkus' ballet "Don Quixote" with Alla Mikhalchenko and Valery Anisimov dancing.

Open air concerts of classical, chamber, choral and folk music are being readied for the Arkhangelskoye, Kolomenskoye and Kuskovo estates. Some 30 new pieces of sculpture have been commissioned, along with new symphonic works, a musical comedy entitled "The Girl Champion", and even a special Olympic puppet show. The latter will be created by Moscow's famous Central Puppet Theatre, which has played to standing room only audiences at every performance for 47 years.

Special exhibitions will be devoted to the Russian theatre, ancient manuscripts, old Russian weapons and coaches, and 17th and early 18th century applied art, castings, chased articles, glassware and gold embroidery.

Literary exhibitions will open at the Tolstoy, Chekhov and Gorky museums and a special walking tour, "In Pushkin's Footsteps", will be created around the life of the great 19th century poet. The Pushkin tour will include his Moscow home and apartment, the homes of his acquaintances, furnishings of the period, and recreations of the early 19th century coffee houses, sweet shops and fashion boutiques he frequented.

Even the weatherman has been caught up in the Olympic fever, and has already issued an official long-range forecast calling for "close to ideal" conditions and summer temperatures of about 20 degrees Celsius (64 degrees Fahrenheit).

FOUR OLYMPIC GOLDEN CITIES FEATURED IN 2ND ANNUAL SERIES

The second annual set in the 1980 Olympic Golden Cities series features Zagorsk, focal point of religious pilgrimages for more than 500 years; Rostov-Veliky, 1000-year-old city that ranks as one of Russia's oldest; Pereslavl-Zalessky, birthplace of Peter the Great's "toy" fleet, and Yaroslavl, the ancient cultural center.

The series commemorates the participation of 16 Golden Cities as sites for the 1980 Olympic Games and the 16-month cultural Olympics festival that opens this year. The four cities in the second multicolored set in the 30 stamp series, released 16 November and 15 December, are all located along the Moscow-Yaroslavl highway in Russia, largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Zagorsk, about 65 km north of Moscow, was founded by St. Sergius, the most revered Russian saint, in 1340, and later became a major religious and cultural center. Originally Sergiev-Posad, it was renamed in 1930 in honor of Vladimir M. Zagorsky, Soviet leader assassinated by an anarchist in 1919. Its Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery houses the nation's most famous icon, "Old Testament Trinity", by Andrei Rublev, greatest medieval Russian painter and former monk at the monastery.

Rostov-Veliky, about 195 km northeast of Moscow, dates back to 862 and served as capital of a separate principality in the 11th-12th centuries. A major stop on trade routes between the Middle East and Scandinavia, it is also famous for unique miniature enamel paintings, woodcarvings and icons.

Pereslavl-Zalessky, about 140 km northeast of Moscow, dates back to 1152 and its inception by Yuri Dolgoruky, who also founded Moscow. Czar Peter the Great built a shipyard and scale model fleet in Pereslavl that became a springboard for the first Russian navy. Only one ship, the "Fortuna", remains from the unique flotilla paraded past foreign ambassadors on Pereslavl's Lake Plescheyevo in 1692.

Yaroslavl, about 240 km northeast of Moscow, was founded in 1030 by Yaroslavl the Wise, Kiev grand prince, and later became a major center for Russian art and architecture. During the 17th century, the

Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery, Zagorsk, medieval Russia's largest, wealthiest and most renown monastery.

Rostov Kremlin, noted for its progressive town planning and departure from traditional architecture of the period.

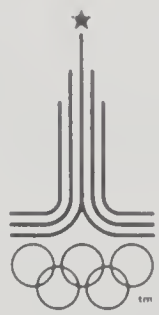
Church of John the Baptist, typical of the 17th century architectural achievements of the Yaroslavl School.

distinctive Yaroslavl School became famous for the "impressive monumentality and dignity" of its architecture and the "vivid coloring and lively narrative quality" of its paintings and frescoes. In 1795 the only known copy of the medieval manuscript, "Song of Igor's Campaign", was discovered in Yaroslavl's Transfiguration of Our Saviour Monastery, and later became the basis for Borodin's "Prince Igor" opera.

The jumbo-sized semi-postals, which feature the name of the Golden Cities in Cyrillic letters and the emblem of the Games of the XXII Olympiad, in the upper right hand portion, were designed by L.M. Sharov, Chief, Edition and Expedition of Postal Values, Ministry of Communications of the U.S.S.R.

Issue Two — Zagorsk
Early 16th century stone walls, 50 ft. thick, surround Trinity-St. Sergius Monastery, medieval center for painters, sculptors

Issue Two — Zagorsk
Yuri Gagarin Palace of Culture, named for world's first man in space, showcases works of 15th-17th century craftsmen, artists



Issue Two — Yaroslavl
Corner watchtower and wall of Transfiguration of Our Saviour Monastery, built in 17th century to replace original 12th century structure

Issue Two — Rostov-Veliky
Unique 17th century round towers and wall, Rostov Kremlin, noted for its departure from typically severe, fortress-like structures

Issue Two — Rostov-Veliky
Spaso-Yakovlesky Monastery, on banks of Lake Nero, is famous for its 17th century frescoes and rich interior decorations

Issue Two — Yaroslavl
An obelisk to Civil War heroes, erected in 1958, and a modern boat dock on the Volga quay

Issue Two — Pereslavl-Zalessky
Monument to 17th century czar Peter the Great, whose foreign and domestic reforms transformed Russia into a great world power

Issue Two — Pereslavl-Zalessky
Bust of Alexander Nevski, 13th century co-ruler of the city, military hero and Russian saint; and vignette, Goritsky Monastery

OLYMPIC POSTAL STATIONERY DEPICTS VENUES, AQUATICS, CULTURE, LOTTERY

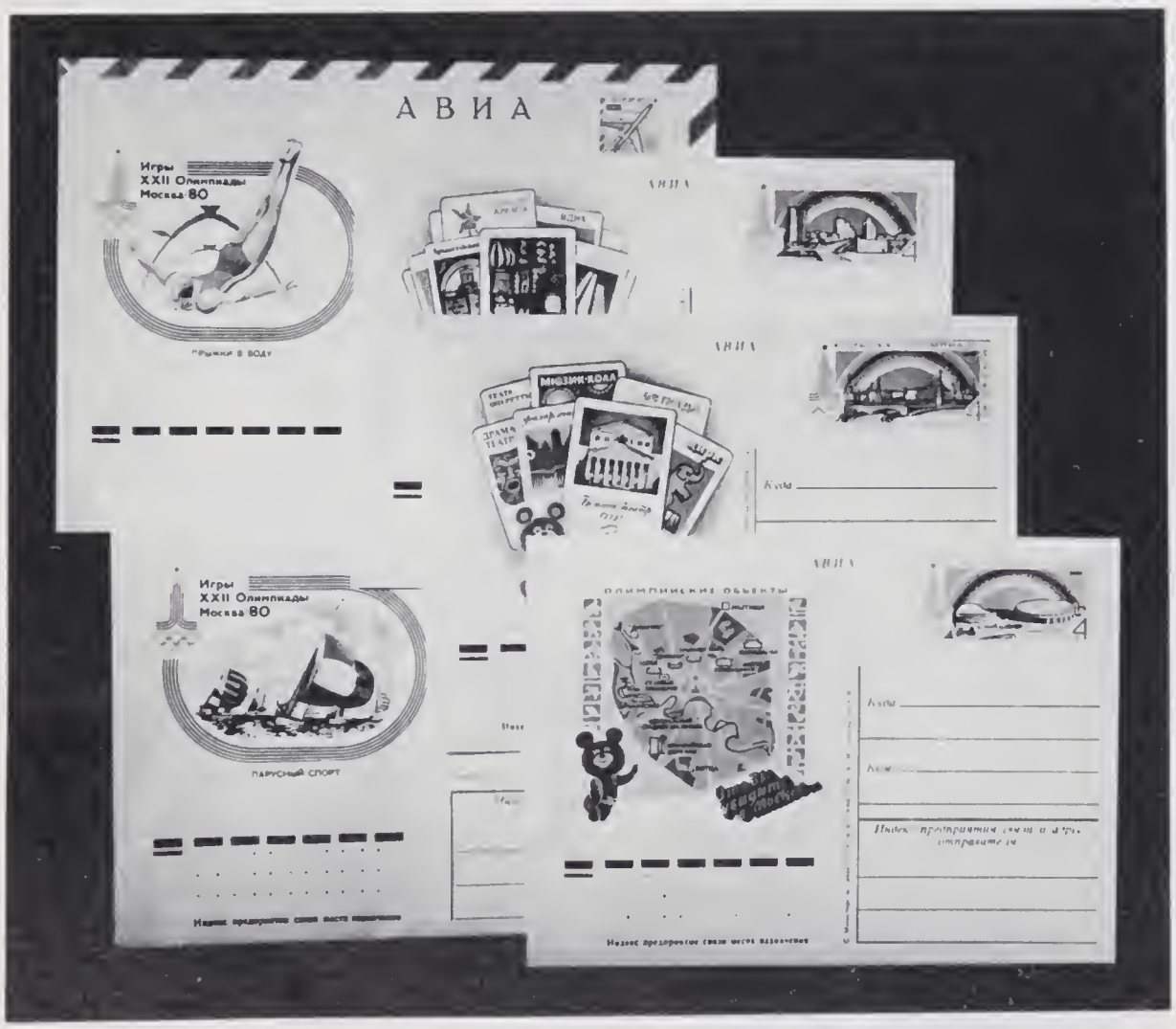
Venues of the Games of the XXII Olympiad, Moscow's cultural Olympic attractions, the Olympic lottery, yachting and aquatic events are featured on four commemorative postal cards and eight commemorative stamped envelopes in the 1978 set of postal stationery marking the Olympic Games in Moscow.

A venue postal card indicium depicts the new sports complex, on Prospekt Mira (Peace Ave.), containing Moscow's first domed stadium (for Olympic boxing bouts) and an indoor swimming and diving stadium, beneath a rainbow of official 1980 Olympic colors. The cachet features 13 venues for the Games superimposed on a map of Moscow.

A theater's postal card indicium depicts the Kremlin, ancient Moscow fortress, cultural center and seat of Soviet government. The cachet is a montage of cards featuring some of Moscow's 45 theaters and concert halls, including the Bolshoi Theater and Moscow Circus.

A museum postal card indicium features St. Basil's Cathedral, the 16th century masterpiece of Russian art and architecture built for Ivan the Terrible, and Red Square, the ancient equivalent to Rome's Forum. The square derives its name from the Russian word "red", meaning "fair" or "beautiful". The cachet bears a montage of cards depicting some of Moscow's 60 museums, including the Tretyakov Art Gallery, Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and Tolstoy Museum.

A Moscow landmark's postal card indicium depicts the modern skyline of Kalinin Ave., named for Mikhail Kalinin, the peasant's son who became the first President of the Soviet Union. The cachet continues the card montage motif, and denotes such landmarks as the 18th century Arkhangelskoye estate of Prince Yusupov, the 533 acre Economic Achievements Exhibition, with its 80 pavilions, and the 30-story Council for Mutual Economic Assistance skyscraper, with its distinctive round conference hall.



Three new first class envelopes commemorate men's kayak singles competition, inaugurated at the 1936 Berlin Games; swimming, one of only four sports represented at all 19 modern Olympic Games; and water polo, included in Olympic competition since 1900.

Completing the aquatic series are three airmail envelopes with cachets depicting men's Canadian pairs, inaugurated at the Berlin Games; and two events introduced at the 1904 St. Louis Games, the double sculls and diving.

A seventh envelope commemorates the yachting events, part of Olympic competition since the second modern Olympiad.

An eighth envelope features a cachet marking the Soviet's nationwide Olympic lottery, called Sprint, and depicts some of the new cars offered as prizes. The lottery, which costs 50 kopecks a ticket, also provides motorcycles and cash prizes up to 5000 roubles. The smallest prize is another lottery ticket. ■

A SLUG WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD

What is a slug? Well, it can be any number of things. Like a slow, clumsy person; a type of snail or caterpillar. It can be a small piece of metal, great for ripping off automatic coin machines; or a swallow of the "hair of the dog . . ." Or a well placed right to the head.

On the other hand, a slug can be a heavy round or octagonal piece of metal, gold in color and content, fashioned and minted by a treasury-appointed assayist, and more accurately and lovingly referred to as a Fifty Dollar Gold piece.

Although Augustus Humbert was, an official United States Assayer of Gold, he was not given the legal go-ahead to mint coins. It is even likely that the dies for the first fifty dollar gold piece — probably engraved in New York by C.C. Wright — were not intended, by Humbert, to be used in the making of coins, but rather to be as his stamp on ingots of gold issued by Moffat & Co. The eight-sided pieces of 1851 and 1852 were never coined for general circulation, so his fifty dollar gold pieces are, in a sense, simply private coinage.

During the wild and bawdy gold-rush days of 1849 and 1850, the scarcity of coins for general use brought out the private minters. California gold was bulky and one had a difficult time spending it. Bulk gold was frowned on in many government branches, and export sales were made in silver, mainly because the Far East demanded it. Thus out of necessity came the demand for private minters. A standard price of $16.00 per ounce was set by the public and despite government rules forbidding it, they went ahead and obtained gold coins minted privately.

At first they anticipated they would need large size gold pieces, and had visions of mint denominations of $100 and $1000. But the bulk and weight of gold dictated otherwise, and only the fifty dollar gold pieces came into use.

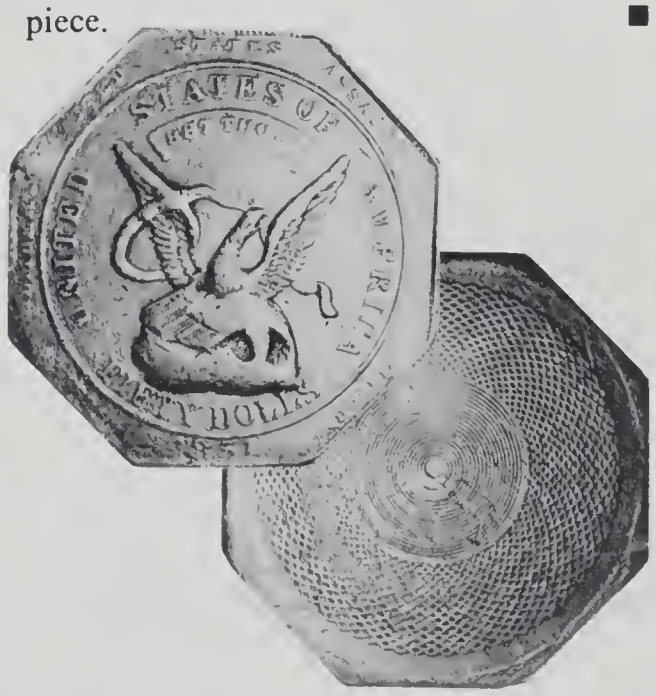
The opening of the San Francisco Mint in 1854 eased the coin shortage, and though its influence was felt in a partial way, many of the private gold pieces continued to circulate.

In 1855 Wass, Molitor & Co., and Kellogg & Co. issued two very interesting fifty dollar pieces. Both were round and the Kellogg piece today is practically a museum piece worth thousands of dollars.

It is doubtful if a complete set of fifty dollar gold pieces exists, for some of them are extreme rarities, and as such, almost priceless. So as an investment, they could never be termed "sluggish".

Which brings us back to "slugs" — an ignominious description to say the least, when applied to these rare and beautiful gold pieces. Legend has it that a fifty dollar gold piece, carefully wrapped in a sock or handkerchief, made a pretty convincing weapon when wielded by hoodlums who waylaid unsuspecting miners by "slugging" them and relieving them of their earnings.

And that's how the nickname "slug" became attached to the Fifty Dollar Gold piece. ■



To satisfy local demand for gold coinage, Augustus Humbert struck 8-sided $50 gold pieces. The legend near the rim proclaims "AUGUSTUS HUMBERT UNITED STATES ASSAYER OF GOLD CALIFORNIA 1851."

Note the similarity of the privately issued Wass, Molitor $50 "slug" (shown actual size) and the design of the Type I U.S. gold dollar (shown enlarged).

Coming Soon — An Exciting New Paramount Division

A new Paramount division will make its debut this Spring. Created in response to many customer requests, this division will offer a wide variety of decorator artworks in porcelain, crystal, precious metal and gemstones. High quality art prints and fine jewelry will also be part of the offerings.

Our buyers have searched the domestic and international marketplaces to present our customers with what we believe are some of the world's most beautiful products. A fine collection of decorative art objects from the United States, France, Germany, India, Spain and other ports of call has already been assembled in the main showroom of our Englewood Headquarters. And work has begun on an initial catalogue to be mailed in March or April.

Paramount associates here are excited by the beauty of the pieces to be offered, and by the potential of the new division. There are many fine examples of craftsmanship in several different kinds of art material, including some that are outside of Paramount's usual offerings.

"Quite frankly, I'm enthused about the prospects of our new division," said Paramount President Max Humbert. "We are entering into a whole new area — one that may well extend the scope of the Company's present activities.

"I instructed our buyers to look for high quality artworks that are both affordable and desirable . . . products that people just can't buy everywhere. Now that their discoveries are coming in, I'm quite pleased with the results. I'm sure that the items I've seen will find a high level of acceptance by our customers. The new division is off to a good start."

Mr. Humbert's enthusiasm was shared by all who viewed the incoming pieces. Each new shipment is greeted by eager volunteers who unwrap each item and admire it as it joins the ones already displayed in the showroom. A new Daum crystal figurine may take its place next to an exquisite Kaiser porcelain vase with magnificent hand-applied decorations. A handsome piece of Indian brassware may share the limelight with a unique silver statuette resting on polished gemstone. Already the display tables and shelves are resplendent with a vast array of choice decorator art pieces.

Soon the buyers will face the difficult task of selecting the products to be included in the upcoming catalogue — difficult only because of the great number of exceptional pieces and the space limitations of the catalogue itself.

Customers will be able to choose from decorator artworks that will complement any decor, bring beauty into any room. Purchasers can be assured that the products offered by the new division will be of the same high standards that they have come to expect from Paramount. Our customers will be able to enrich their homes *and their lives* from the new line.

The initial catalogue offering will include nearly 100 of these products. This represents a substantial collection of decorator pieces to choose from. Further, it is anticipated that future offerings will be even more extensive to meet the expected demand. It is a strong possibility that another catalogue of this line will be published later this year.

Mr. Humbert noted that "Customer letters have convinced me that there is a tremendous demand for decorator artwork such as those we will carry in our new line. And, as in the past, whenever we encounter needs of our customers, Paramount will attempt to meet them."

Paramount's new division is a step in that direction. The *Journal* will follow its development very carefully in the future, and keep our readers abreast of what happens. ■

Pictured is a grouping representative of the new Paramount division's offerings. A Junnan ginger jar from Germany at the top of the photograph features an Oriental pattern in cobalt blue, gold and coral. Made by Kaiser Porcelain of Staffelstein, Bavaria, this piece is one of a fine line of quality porcelains that have been produced by Kaiser since 1872.

To the left of the ginger jar is a Daum crystal from France. A Beaulieu pattern decanter 11 7/8 inches high, it is distinguished by its contemporary panel-cut design. The charming Teddy Bear in the foreground is also a Daum crystal. It is one of several animals sculpted in gleaming crystal that will be available in the new catalogue.

The round brass box pictured is from India. It incorporates a tasseled cord design on and below the domed lid.

A French limoges china box is in the popular and desirable egg shape that has long been sought after by collectors. It is embellished with a delicate pink floral pattern with green leaves and gold accents.

Also pictured is "The Peddler", a whimsical miniature scene created in precious metal and gemstones. The vendor and his cart are sculpted in fine sterling silver. His wares are made of carnelian, coral, amethyst and jade, and the entire scene rests on a stand of polished agate.

THE MODERN OLYMPICS

The 1960 Games in Rome

Second in a Series
by
Helen Price

The official logo of the 1960 Rome Games portrayed Romulus and Remus being suckled by a she-wolf, the date 1960 in Roman numerals, and the Olympic rings. According to legend, Rome was founded by Romulus after he and Remus were suckled by a she-wolf.

August 25, 1960 — Opening day of the Seventeenth Olympic Games. A day not without its bit of humor and pathos.

As competitors checked in from the various countries, each was handed a questionnaire. The most unusual questions concerned the contestant's infancy: Had he/she been breast fed or bottle fed? One cannot help but take a tongue-in-cheek approach to this question. The official symbol of the 1960 Games showed a she-wolf suckling Romulus and Remus, which legend says were the founders of Rome. Was there a connection?

Opening day ushered in a heat wave, cutting a considerable swath in the enthusiasm of contestants and spectators alike. The Canadian team drew open criticism by removing their blazers and marching in their shirt sleeves as 75,000 sweltering spectators watched the parade of athletes.

"I declare open the Olympic Games of Rome, celebrating the XVII Olympiad of the modern era."

So spoke President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy as he declared the Olympic Games officially open. And from August 25th to September 11th, 7,000 athletes from 84 nations competed in 18 sports.

Each Olympic contestant was asked: As a baby, were you breast fed or bottle fed?

In the first full day of competition, Chris von Saltza of Saratoga, California broke the Olympic women's 100 metre free-style swimming record, qualifying for the semifinals. Lance Larsen of Los Angeles achieved the same spot in the men's semifinals but lost in the finals to John Devitt of Australia after a controversial finish.

A not-yet-fully-grown eighteen year old boxer from Louisville, Kentucky competed in the Light-Heavyweight class, against his own desire. His name was Cassius Clay, and he had already won all but eight of his 170 amateur fights. After a close decision over Tony Madigan of Australia, he won the division title over a Polish fighter with a name no one could pronounce — Zbigniew Pietryskowski. Clay wore his gold medal to bed for the next two nights.

The United States and Italy each won three of the ten Olympic boxing championships.

The athlete who derived the greatest publicity in the Rome Games was a tall, thin Tennessean who went on to win both Olympic Sprint gold medals, the first American woman to do so. Her name was Wilma Rudolph, from Tennessee State. She set an Olympic record of 23.2 seconds in a preliminary heat, then ran away from the field to win the final in 24 seconds flat, combating a strong headwind all the way.

By far the most spectacular race of the 1960 Olympics was won by Herb Elliott of

Cassius Clay (later Muhammad Ali), the 18-year-old from Louisville, Ky., throws a right at Tony Madigan of Australia during the light-heavyweight boxing semi-finals in Rome. Clay defeated Madigan and went on to beat Z. Pietrzykowski of Poland to earn an Olympic gold medal. ***(Wide World Photos)***

Australia. In the 1500 metres, he intentionally held back until the very last lap. Then, by a pre-arranged signal from his coach — who crashed through a police cordon waving a white flag — Elliott knew he had a good chance then to set a world record. Pushing every ounce of energy he had left, he finished 15 yards ahead of Michel Jazy of France, never once dreaming he stood a chance until he caught sight of his coach waving his white shirt frantically.

For the first time since 1896, no American runner was in the 800 metres final, which was won by Peter Snell of New Zealand. The sprints were won by two Europeans, Armin Hary winning the 100 metres for Germany (their first Olympic track title), and Livio Berruti of Italy taking the 200 metres.

A youthful eighteen year old boxer from Louisville, Kentucky competed in the Light-Heavyweight class — against his own desire. His name was Cassius Clay.

The United States bounced back in the 400 metres hurdles when Glen Davis became one of three athletes to retain his Olympic title. The Americans shone again when Lee Calhoun retained his title in the 110 metre hurdles.

In 1960 there were only ten women's events in the field and track and the U.S.S.R. claimed six of these.

In the swimming division, the Americans came back after the Melbourne Games (only five gold medals won) to win eleven gold medals and break five world records.

Tragedy struck in the 1960 Games when 23-year-old Knud Enemark Jensen, a Danish competitor in the bicycle races, suddenly fell off his bicycle and died a few hours later in the hospital. The diagnosis: Heat stroke causing a brain hemorrhage. A few days later, however, the unfortunate incident developed into a full-fledged scandal. Jensen's trainer admitted to giving Jensen a shot of Ronicol prior to the race. And not only to Jensen but to other team members as well. The Ronicol was to hype up circulation. Following the collapse of two other Danish cyclists, it was revealed that this type of drug was widely used by professional cyclists. However, this was the first time it had been administered to amateurs.

The Italians took five of the six cycling gold medals, with Russia capturing the other in the 109 mile road race.

In all, it had been a spectacular, dramatic, and emotionally-packed Olympics, with the blazing heat taking its toll on competitors and spectators alike. ■

The Italian postal service portrayed the actual sites of the competitions for this group of 1960 Olympic stamps.

Stamps courtesy of J.E. Schirmer

Drawing on its artistic past, Italy used classical subjects on three 1960 Olympic commemorative stamps.

1960 ROME GAMES SCOREBOARD

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze
U.S.S.R.	41	29	30
United States	33	20	14
Italy	13	10	14

"The athletic code . . . has come down to us from even before the age of chivalry and knighthood. It embraces the highest moral laws and will stand the tests of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the uplift of man. Its requirements are for the things that are right and its restraints are from the things that are wrong. Its observance will uplift everyone who comes under its influence."

General of the Army, Douglas MacArthur
Past President of the U.S. Olympic Association

Additional Reading: "Olympic Games Handbook" — by David Chester
"Olympic Games" — by Lord Killanin and John Rodda

SAN FRANCISCO'S OLD MINT

by
Mary T. Brooks
former U.S. Mint Director

The ceremonies for the striking of the first small S-mint Anthony dollar brought me back to San Francisco. It was most gratifying to revisit the beautiful old mint at 5th and Mission Streets, to see the number of visitors tallied each day at the museum, the tours of school children who came to learn western history, the movie theater filled and the libraries being used. It was one of the most emotional experiences of my life.

The history of the old mint endears her to all California. She stood through the great earthquake of 1906, saved from fire by devoted employees who fought through the night even though their own homes were burning. When the city-wide fire was out she became the mother of mercy. She served as a message center, a bank, and dispenser of water to all who came. The treasury in her vaults, $2 million in gold, helped rebuild the city. In 1935 a new mint was built, and the Treasury Department closed her doors. She stood alone through the years neglected with the wind, rain and man ravaging her.

I first saw the building in the spring of 1972, when John Breckle, Superintendent of the U.S. Assay Office, took me in through the basement. Rats ran ahead of us in the darkness. We saw temporary partitions in the large rooms, with empty bottles, old clothing and garbage in the corners. Windows were broken, the copper wiring was all gone. Chandeliers, bronze door handles and hinges were missing, the fireplaces were all off the walls, and the plumbing had disappeared. It was a scene of utter neglect. However, I fell in love with it on that fateful day. The beauty of the classical fascade, the lovely cast iron woodwork and grills could not be blurred by the cobwebs and refuse. The old building was solid and graceful (my early college course in historic architecture was paying off). Suddenly I had a vision of using it as a working business building and a museum dedicated to her glorious past.

The classic revival Neo-French Renaissance building was designed by A.B. Mullett in 1867. Later that year, the land was acquired for $1 million in gold coin. Construction began in 1869 and was completed in November of 1874 at a cost of $2,130,512. It is the finest building of its kind west of the Mississippi River.

The main facade is built around a central Doric Hexa-style portico and stands on a concrete foundation 5 feet deep and 4 feet thick. The interior has cast iron beams, doors, window frames, shutters and ornamental work. The floors and stairs are granite. There were 14 marble fireplaces on the first and second floors. Huge vaults were located in the basement. Two large rooms 32 feet high were used as receiving rooms, where the public brought gold dust and nuggets and later silver. Balconies with cast iron railings encircled the receiving rooms. Armed guards patrolled the activities below. There is a room at the main Treasury in Washington, D.C. built exactly like this, also designed by Mullett.

Unusual circumstances were responsible for the fact that the lovely old classical

On April 18, 1906 the Earth's crust heaved violently and doomed San Francisco. The quake was followed by a fire that destroyed the center of town and burned until April 21st. Four square miles of the city were destroyed. The only major building which survived the quake and fire was the U.S. Mint.

building is still there and not replaced by a high-rise office building or a parking lot.

In 1972 John Connally was Secretary of the Treasury, Casper Weinberger was at the Budget Bureau, and I was the Director of the Mint. Controversy over the old mint building had raged for many years. The Smithsonian didn't want it, but the College of San Francisco did — for a dormitory! Others wanted it for a parking lot and several judges wanted it for a courthouse. Many historical and numismatic groups worked for years to save the old building. The controversy, both pro and con, involved thousands of people.

Public Law 92-362 had just passed. This law provided for adaptive uses of surplus historical structures. Our restoration project at the old mint was the first public building to open as a dual purpose facility. The mint needed more space to help process our fast-growing numismatic service. We also needed a computer to handle our millions of orders. We could use funds earned from numismatic programs for the renovation and restoration of the mint building. Thus, I could ask Congress for appropriations that would give the old mint a useful life but not at taxpayers' expense. The museum idea was mine. The mint had so many exhibits, it seemed to me that it was a fine educational project. It has since become one of the most popular sights in all San Francisco. I went back to Washington afire with my idea and it wasn't long before I had the support of Secretary Connally, the support of Casper Weinberger of the Bureau of the Budget, and the backing of the White House.

On April 2, 1972, Tom Hanlon of the General Services Administration gave me the deed and the key. As I signed the deed and he gave me the key, he laughed and said, "I thought you might not have your glasses on, so I almost gave you Alcatraz too."

(to be continued)

Today the old mint in San Francisco is home for the Mint's computer-based collector service department and museum.

Prior to restoration the old mint was filled with trash and evidence of vandalism.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 and the issuance of private gold coins were responsible for the opening of a branch mint in San Francisco in 1854.

UNDER THE GAVEL

Auction Activity Continues at Feverish Pace

by
Karl Hirtzinger, Manager
Rare Coin Auction Department
and
John Wright
Paramount Philatelics

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1. Furious bidding is expected for this superb gem 1892-S Morgan silver dollar — one of the finest known. (Photo enlarged)
2. The Hamilton Sale features a gem proof 1881 $2½ gold piece — one of only 51 proofs struck that year from a total mintage of 691. (Photo enlarged)
3. Gold dollar collectors will marvel at the perfection of this gem proof 1859 gold dollar. The Hamilton Sale contains literally hundreds of choice and desirable coins. (Photo enlarged)

1978 was a banner year for numismatic auctions. There seemed to be more auctions than ever before with phenomenal record prices realized at nearly every sale. This year will definitely continue that trend. In fact, 1979 is shaping up as one of the most exciting years for numismatic auctions in history.

The famous Garrett Collection, currently owned by Johns Hopkins University, will be offered later this year by Bowers & Ruddy Galleries. This summer, another collection will make its way to the auction block: The collection owned by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh. Spink and Son of London, England, has been selected to conduct this sale. In August, the annual American Numismatic Association rare coin auction will take place. Conducted this year by New England Rare Coin Galleries, the ANA auction will surely contain a beautiful selection of rare and choice material.

Paramount's Auction Department is not to be forgotten. At the time of this writing, we are preparing the catalogue for the sale of the Hamilton Collection. This important auction will take place in New York City's Barbizon Plaza Hotel on April 2nd and 3rd — immediately following the Metropolitan New York Numismatic Convention. The highlights of this sale include one of the finest known 1892-S Morgan silver dollars — a superb gem; beautiful gem proof examples of 1859 and 1863 gold dollars; and an incredibly lovely 1881 gem proof quarter eagle. The Hamilton Collection Sale features many other outstanding U.S. coins ranging from half cents to twenty dollar gold pieces. It also contains a wide selection of foreign gold coins, an attractive run of early hammered French coins, silver crowns, proofs and pattern coinage.

Paramount's Auction Department is also preparing a special outstanding sale of U.S. and World rarities for later this summer. There will be more details, later, concerning this large sale.

Many of our readers and customers have asked us why so many of the large collections of rare or choice material seem to re-enter the numismatic market via the auction route. To answer this question, there are several reasons: 1. Auction sales definitely offer a wider exposure for the coins and consequently attract more potential buyers. 2. The expertise in research and cataloguing the major auction houses offer. 3. The record prices and publicity recent sales have achieved. Any collector seriously considering the sale of his or her collection should look into auction as a possible sales vehicle.

In preparation for upcoming sales in this numismatically significant year of 1979, we are presently accepting consignments for our summer and fall sales. To find out how easy it is to sell your coins in a quality

Paramount auction, please give us a toll free call at 1-800-543-2192 and ask for Karl Hirtzinger, Manager of the Rare Coin Auction Department. Ohio residents, please call collect: 1-513-836-8641.

RARE STAMP AUCTION

Paramount Philatelics' Spring Rare Stamp Auction will be exciting! Scheduled for April 3rd in New York's Barbizon Plaza Hotel, the sale features a fine selection of United States essays, proofs and general issues. It will surely be one of the highlights of the Spring for stamp collectors and investors.

An 1851, 3 Cent black die essay on bond paper in Very Fine condition opens the sale, and the essay portion of the sale. Highlights of this popular collecting field offered for sale on April 3rd include a bottom imprint and plate number block of eight of the 3 Cent Rose "Music Box" grill essay produced in 1867, the scarce "points down" variety, and a group of six 1877 3 Cent Washington plate essays on green bond paper. All six essays are left sheet margin copies in Extremely Fine condition.

More than 100 lots of Trial Color Proofs, Official Proofs and Revenue Proofs will be sold at the Spring Rare Stamp Auction. Included are a top imprint and plate number block of fourteen, 1873, 1 Cent Black trial color Proofs on India, mounted on card (156TC); a large die Proof of the 1873 3 Cent Green sunk on card with the National Bank Note Co. imprint at bottom; a set of the 1-50 Cent Columbians, plate proofs on card (230P4-240P4); and a complete set of the 1873 1 cent-$20.00 Officials, plate proofs on card.

A lovely assortment of the 1847 5 Cent Brown — the first U.S. stamp — opens the General Issues portion of the Sale. Collectors will find such outstanding lots as an unused block of four, 1857, 3 Cent dull red Type I (Scott #25) with full original gum; an unused block of twelve, 1859, 12 Cent Black, Plate III (Scott #36b) with full original gum; and an Extremely Fine used example of the 1870 12 Cent dull violet with grill (Scott #140) — one of the finest known of only 10,000 issued.

Commemoratives are well-represented with a nice selection of Columbians, Pan-Americans, and Trans-Mississippis. Hectic bidding is expected for the complete sheets of 50 of the 1 and 2 Cent Trans-Mississippi issues. Zeppelin collectors will have the opportunity to bid on plate blocks of six and blocks of 4 of each value. Airmail collectors will bid for a nice group of C1-C6 in blocks of 4. An amazing complete sheet of 400 of Scott #611 — the 1923 2¢ Harding Imperforate — will also trade hands.

Paramount Philatelics invites you to consign your choice and rare stamps to an upcoming sale. Expert cataloguing, superb photography, competitive commission rates and one of the largest and most active lists of collectors are only a few of the important reasons knowledgeable stamp collectors and investors consign their stamps to Paramount Philatelics' Auctions. Find out how easy it is to have your collection or duplicates included in our next Rare Stamp Sale by calling John Wright on our TOLL FREE AUCTION HOTLINE. Call 1-800-543-2192 free of charge today. Ohio residents call collect 1-513-836-8641. ■

THE COLLECTOR'S GLOSSARY

Quarter Eagle — United States gold coin with a face value of $2½.
Crown — A general term embracing most silver coins from approximately 33 to 50 millimeters in size.
Essay — (Philatelic) A proposed design, submitted to and rejected by the postal authorities.
Proof — (Philatelic) Trial impressions from the die or printing plate before actual stamp production begins.
Trial Color Proof — (Philatelic) Proof stamps were often printed in several colors to enable postal officials to select the final production color. A proof exhibiting any color not selected for final production is called a "Trial Color Proof".

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1. The first 20 lots in Paramount Philatelics' Spring Rare Stamp Sale are pattern stamps (called "Essays" by stamp collectors). Shown actual size is an 1865 1 Cent Blue Bowlsby Coupon Essay. (Lot 8)

2. From 1873 to 1879, each Department of the federal government had its own postage stamps to facilitate accounting for its postage. The $20 State Department plate proof shown here is an example from lot 58 — a complete set of the 1873 Official plate proofs on card.

3. A Very Fine block of four 1918 6 Cent Orange with full original gum opens the 71-lot airmail portion of the Spring Auction. (Lot 387)

OUR COMMEMORATIVE COINS:

The Lexington-Concord Half Dollar

(11th In a Series)
by
Helen Price

"One if by land, and two if by sea;
And I on the opposite shore will be,
Ready to ride and spread the alarm
Through every Middlesex village and farm."
— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
"Tales of a Wayside Inn, Paul Revere's Ride"

Chester Beach based his obverse design for the 1925 Lexington-Concord commemorative half dollar on a statue by Daniel Chester French. This famous statue may be seen today in Concord, Mass.

One glance at the Lexington-Concord Half Dollar is enough to conjure up visions more American than baseball, apple pie, and John Wayne. There's the "Minute Man" on the obverse, musket in hand, his coat flung across the plow, ready to fight at a minute's notice. Flip the coin over and you almost hear the bell in the Old Belfry, alerting the men. You might hear the clackety-clack of pounding hoofs as Paul Revere sped through the night toward Lexington and Concord.

After ten years of smarting under the intolerable policies imposed by the British Government, the Colonies inched closer and closer to open rebellion. It was true they needed money for defense; and with government expenses mounting daily, it was clear that some form of revenue had to be forth-coming. But the colonists wanted to tax themselves; they wanted the privilege of spending the money as they saw fit. They resented the Sugar Tax, the Stamp Tax, the Quartering Act, the Townsend Revenue Act. And if England was going to tax them, then they wanted representation in Parliament.

Finally, all the little irritations accumulated into one big one. The Boston Tea Party on December 16, 1773, in open retaliation for the Tea Tax, was just the beginning. People turned from the teapot to the coffee pot, and we became a country addicted to coffee.

When ports were closed to trade, when capital offenders were forced to stand trial in England, and when troops were again quartered among the people, the colonies reacted by meeting in the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia in September and October, 1774. In Massachusetts, John Hancock headed up a Committee of Safety. They called themselves the "Minute Men". They stockpiled munitions in various towns and were ready to drop whatever they might be doing, ready to answer an instant call to arms.

In Boston, General Gage, having learned of the hidden stores, prepared to send a detachment of about 700 regular troops to Concord to destroy all military supplies collected by the provincials. His plan, however, leaked out to the Whigs who sent Paul Revere and William Dawes out with warnings to the colonists. Consequently, when Gage's troops arrived at Lexington at sunrise on April 19, 1775, they were surprised to see a small contingent of Minute Men on the green. But the British fired and cleared the ground, leaving eight Americans dead and ten wounded. In short order, the Redcoats turned and marched toward Concord.

A Look at Growth:
The Lexington-Concord Half Dollar

1949	**$3.25***
1959	**$6.75**
1969	**$12.00**
1979	**$50.00**

***All prices quoted from *A Guide Book of United States Coins* by R.S. Yeoman for a Mint State coin.**

Here the colonists were outnumbered and there was nothing to do but retreat over the North Bridge to await reinforcements. In the meantime, the British entered the town, held the North Bridge with about 100 men, and carried out an extensive search for munitions. They found but a few and these they burned, the smoke rising from the fires, warning the provincials who watched from over the bridge. By this time the Minute Men ranks had been enforced to about 450, and under Major John Buttrick, they marched back to the bridge. Gage's regulars saw them and began hastily tearing up the bridge's planks. When Buttrick shouted at them to stop, the regulars opened fire, killing two of the Minute Men and wounding several more. Furious, Buttrick called out his famous order, "Fire, fellow soldiers, for God's sake, fire"!

Never has there been greater response from so few. Shots rang out and his men,

never slowing their advance, proved to be too much for the British who broke ranks and fled toward Boston. In the mass retreat, the rear guard was pelted with skirmish fire from every possible cover, all the way back to Lexington. By that time, their ammunition was nearly spent and the Redcoat troops completely demoralized. Had it not been for the timely arrival of a column from Boston with two field pieces, the rout would have turned into certain slaughter or surrender. As it was, the troops had a brief respite, but a short time later they resumed their march, the militia closed in again, hounding the British all the way to Charlestown. There, under the protective guns of the British fleet, they found safety.

The total of the dead and wounded on both sides was 366. Of that number 40 Americans and 73 British were killed.

It was the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

In retrospect, the casualties at Lexington-Concord were few, certainly almost insignificant by 20th century standards, but the battle proved to the Americans that they could defeat the British. And once safely inside Boston, they laid seige to that city — a long siege that was to last until March, 1776.

The Lexington-Concord Half Dollar commemorates these events. Designed by Chester Beach, Congress authorized the striking of 300,000 pieces on January 14, 1925. There were actually 162,099 struck of which 86 were melted, leaving a net coinage of 162,013. They sold at $1.00 each at the time of issuance.

On the obverse left of the "Minute Man", are the words CONCORD MINUTE-MAN. Below, PATRIOT HALF DOLLAR, and statutory description above and at right. On the reverse, OLD BELFRY, LEXINGTON appears below the Old Belfry at Lexington, and at the bottom edge are the dates 1775-1925, and the inscription LEXINGTON-CONCORD SESQUICENTENNIAL around the border. ■

Additional Reading: "U.S. Commemorative Coinage" — by A. Slabaugh
"Encyclopedia of United States History"

"If the British went out by water, to show two lanterns in the North Church steeple; and if by land, one as a signal . . ."
— Paul Revere

The Old Belfry in Lexington, Mass. was selected by Beach to fill the reverse. The bell in the Old Belfry warned the Minute Men that the British Redcoats were on their way to Lexington.

AKERS' HALF EAGLE REFERENCE BOOK DUE IN JULY

The next volume of "United States Gold Coins — An Analysis of Auction Records" will be available in July, according to author David W. Akers. Akers, Paramount's Executive Vice-President and a widely respected gold coin expert, is currently completing the final draft of the Half Eagle ($5 gold coin) reference work.

"My goal in publishing this research," Akers said, "is to provide the reader with a more accurate gauge of the relative rarity of the issues within the U.S. $5 gold coin series. Never before has this information been available in one handy reference."

In addition to a high-resolution photograph, specific comments and facts about each date, there will be a comprehensive listing of the auction records of virtually every major sale of U.S. gold coins starting with the John Story Jenks Sale of 1921. The average grade encountered and overall availability figures will be listed for each date. Underrated and overrated issues will be clearly identified.

A new feature of this hardbound reference will be a pricing guide. Akers has drawn on his more than 20 years of numismatic experience, the knowledge of Paramount's Rare Coin experts and recent auction results to formulate prices for all $5 gold coins in an unprecedented range of grades.

Earlier volumes in Akers' auction analysis series, reviewing the U.S. $1, $2½, $3 and $4 gold coin series, are now available from Paramount. See the special offering brochure included with this Journal for complete details. Research for the $10 and $20 reference works is expected to begin sometime following publication of the $5 volume. ■

David W. Akers' research on the 1795-1929 Half Eagle denomination will be published in July, 1979. New to this volume is a realistic pricing guide in numerous grades.

THE ANA CORNER

National Coin Week's Theme for 1979 — "Numismatics — A Study of Man's Roots"

The American Numismatic Association, an educational and nonprofit organization, is the largest and most active numismatic body in the world. The association was founded in 1891, and has over 33,000 members from every state in the Union and many foreign countries.

Bicentennial year was a time of reflection for Americans, on our Government's origins in honor of forefathers' struggle to provide a social system more equitable than those from which they had fled. This reflection grew more personal when many Americans, following the television presentation of "Roots", sought out the history of their own family's ancestors, seeking to find a bond between the past and the present and seeing how the legacy left by their forefathers had played a role in Man's history.

This kind of thinking has led the American Numismatic Association to name the 1979 National Coin Week theme "Numismatics — A Study of Man's Roots". As usual, the event will be the third week of April, the 15th through the 21st.

If archaeologists will profess, one of the best genealogies of Man was given to us in the wealth of numismatic material that the generations before us left behind. From the use of salt or beads to metal and paper, currency has recorded the development of trade and commerce in past civilizations. It has served as a tool of power, such as when used for propaganda by the Romans and the German Nazis, or when a Mexican revolutionary chose to produce his own currency to finance his revolution.

Individuals have been immortalized on currency, whether religious figures such as Jesus Christ, the pagan God Tangaroa, political figures such as kings and presidents, or exceptional figures such as Christopher Columbus, Samuel S.B. Morse, Franz Schubert and Booker T. Washington. And along with them have portrayed the events that marked the passing of human life . . . from birth to marriage to anniversaries to death.

Currency has recorded significant events from the rise and fall of republics to the worlds greatest accomplishments, and it has symbolically presented Man's highest ideals. Liberty, the most ellusive and sought after of Man's dreams, has been portrayed by many throughout time, from the Roman revolutionaries who sought freedom for the tyranny of Caesar to Americans who, by the new Susan B. Anthony dollar, pay homage to the struggle to free women from some of the bonds of their past. Even in the study of exonumia — tokens, checks and bonds — we can explore the local history of a region — its origins, businesses as they come and go, and the people who left their indelible image upon the landscape. As the theme of National Coin Week, "Numismatics — A Study of Man's Roots", suggests, Numismatics is one massive weekend used to delve into our past, into our roots as a locality, a state, a country, or as Family of Man.

Currency has recorded Man's history, heroes, gods and symbolic ideals.

In an effort to hasten the availability of publicity materials for National Coin Week, details for this year are being handled by the ANA headquarters staff. Guidelines are being sent to all affiliated clubs, and individuals may write or call to receive kits.

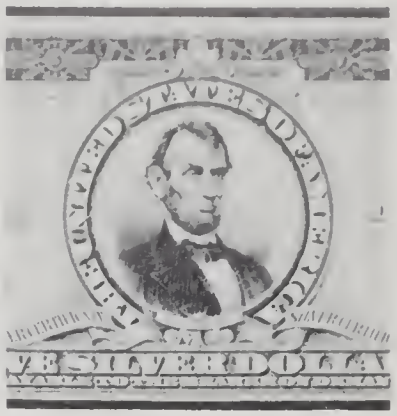
Publicity is the key to National Coin Week success. Club committees should contact all local service clubs, radio and television stations and newspapers to obtain as much coverage as possible. Invite the general public to call or bring in their questions about coins which have been passed down to them. The intent of National Coin Week is to inform and to promote the benefits of our hobby.

Approach your mayor or city manager and request an edict proclaiming April 15

through 21 as National Coin Week in your city or town. Be aware also that church, college and high school papers can be good sources of publicity. An influential businessman or political figure can be most helpful to opening doors to publicity.

It is not mandatory this year to prepare a scrap book on your club's activities but one does make an ideal means of reporting the extent of your participation. Each and every participant of NCW is entitled to an appropriate certificate from the ANA. It is the club's responsibility to furnish a typed and accurate list of all participants to headquarters following the close of NCW activities. The list should include the non-numismatic individuals who help make space available for displays and publicity — local editors, newscasters, bank officials, etc. The certificates can be presented in club ceremonies after the close of NCW and thus generate more publicity for your club and its activities.

Your report to the ANA should include photographs and documentations of what your club did in observation of National Coin Week. Several such reports will be published and they will report the basis for judging the observances. For further information, write to: American Numismatic Association, National, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901. ■



Paramount To Participate In Historic Auction In July

Four of the leading numismatic auction firms in the United States have announced that they will conduct a joint four session auction in July, 1979 in Bridgeton, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. The sale will be the firms' "First Annual Summer Sale" and will be held at the Henry VIII Inn and Lodge on Thursday and Friday, July 26-27, 1979.

Paramount International Coin Corporation, Stack's, Rare Coin Company of America, and Superior Stamp and Coin Company will each conduct one session of the sale. The sessions will be Thursday afternoon, July 26, 1979, Thursday evening, Friday afternoon, July 27, 1979 and Friday evening. The first session will be conducted by Paramount followed in order by Stack's, RARCOA, and Superior.

Auction lots will be available for viewing at the Henry VIII Inn and Lodge from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 24, 1979 and Wednesday, July 25, 1979 and from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on the days of the sale. Lots for each individual session will also be available for viewing for two weeks prior to the sale at the place of business of the firm conducting the session.

An integrated catalogue containing all four sessions will be available in late June, 1979. The catalogue will feature many full color plates as well as superb black and white photography, accurate grading, and detailed descriptions. Regular auction customers of all four firms will automatically receive a catalogue. Other Paramount collectors may reserve a catalogue now by sending five dollars to Paramount's Auction Department requesting a "1979 Summer Sale Catalogue".

Each session will be restricted to a maximum of 500 lots, and many choice consignments have already been received by each firm. Since space is limited it is recommended that anyone interested in consigning material to this First Annual Summer Sale contact Karl Hirtzinger of Paramount's auction department at the earliest possible time to reserve space in the sale for his or her numismatic items. Although many superb quality and famous rarities will be included in the sale, there will also be many coins in all areas and price ranges to appeal to the broadest possible spectrum of collectors.

A number of rooms have been set aside at the Henry VIII Inn and Lodge for those wishing to attend the sale in person. Early reservations are recommended, and anyone desiring assistance in making reservations should contact Paramount as soon as possible. ■

HEADS AND TALES

by
Thomas V. Haney, N.L.G.
Former Numismatic Editor
of *The New York Times*

What does the future hold for the new dollar honoring Susan B. Anthony, champion of equal rights for women? This question has been batted about by numismatists even before the "mini" coin went into production at the Philadelphia and Denver Mints.

According to Mint Director Stella B. Hackel more than 500 million of the coins will be made at our two major facilities and the San Francisco Assay Office. The coin is to be released for general circulation in July when the cupro-nickel pieces join a long line of illustrious predecessors.

The profile of Miss Anthony (1820-1906) is on the obverse side, with the symbolic eagle of the Apollo 11's Moon Landing on the reverse. Both designs are the work of Frank Gasparro, Chief Engraver of the Mint.

The crusade of Miss Anthony was capped in 1920, when the 19th amendment to the Constitution gave nation-wide suffrage to the women of these United States. She was chosen for the new dollar after months of discussion by collectors and the news media.

This dollar will be larger in diameter than our current quarter, but smaller than the half dollar. Mrs. Hackel estimates that the new piece will possibly pare Mint production costs by $4.5 billion. Although still round, it will have an 11-sided inner border, making it easier to distinguish from other circulating coins by feel as well as sight.

Collectors will gain some benefits as the 1979 six-coin proof sets will include the new coin with an "S" mintmark. The 12-piece uncirculated sets will carry only the "D" and "P". Restoration of the "P" is another break with tradition. The last time it was used was on the wartime 5-cent coins of 1942-45, when they contained 35 percent silver to eliminate the nickel, a much needed ingredient for war materials.

Mrs. Hackel is determined to get the new dollar into general circulation and hopes to discourage hoarding.

The Anthony coin has joined an elite among numismatic issues: The U.S. silver dollar series. First authorized by Congress in 1792 and first struck two years later, the U.S. silver dollar has undergone many changes.

Robert Scot is credited with the Flowing Hair design (1794-1795) as well as contributions to the Draped Bust, Small Eagle reverse (1795-1798) and the Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle reverse (1798-1804).

The new Anthony dollar will be larger than our quarter, but smaller than a half dollar. The Director of the Mint estimates the new coin will save $4.5 billion in production costs.

Christian Gobrecht sculpted a series of pattern Seated Liberty designs which were adopted to the silver dollar in 1840. With the exception of the addition of the motto "IN GOD WE TRUST" starting in 1866, Gobrecht's design was struck without change until 1873.

George Morgan's Liberty Head dollars, with numerous minor varieties, dominated the dollar coinage between 1878 and 1921. Then, Anthony de Francisci's Peace Dollar was struck from 1921 to 1935. His prize-winning design in high relief was changed for "wearable" reasons and after 1,006,473 were struck the new ones went into circulation on Jan. 3, 1922.

Our next dollar issue honored both President Dwight D. Eisenhower, World War II leader, and man's first Moon Landing. Designed by Frank Gasparro, the pieces for general circulation were made of cupro-nickel while those for collectors contained 40 percent silver.

(Continued on page 29)

NUMISMATIC NOSTALGIA

The Stars On Coins

Reprinted from
The Numismatist
February 1907

"Please tell me why the stars on a U.S. silver dollar have six points to them."
H.H. Turner, Harrisburg, Ill.

The following clipping will answer our correspondent's question:

Numismatists probably will be interested in an explanation made by Acting Director of the Mint R.E. Preston of the reason that the stars on the coins of the United States have six points, while those of the flag have but five, says the Washington Post.

The question was raised by Elizabeth S. Dickinson of Lexington, Mass., in a letter to Capt. Ross of the revenue cutter service, who in turn referred it to Mr. Preston. In his explanation the acting director said:

"In English heraldry six or more points denote a star. The earliest examples of colonial coins all have the six-pointed star, which is correct, according to English heraldry. It is presumed that when the time came to adopt designs for the coins of the United States, English heraldry was consulted, and the colonial coins were followed in matters of detail like the star. The flag of the United States, as you are aware, is made up very largely from the coat of arms of Washington. Where both the stripes and stars are found, the stars have but five points.

"Washington was a member of the committee for designating the flag, and probably had these stars in mind when the design was under construction, and no doubt his opinion would control the other members of the committee.

"On the five-franc piece of the French republic, stars with six points will be found. There are other examples besides the flag and the coins where the stars differ in the number of points. The stars on the Great Seal and the Seal of the President of the United States are five-pointed, while on the seal of the House of Representatives they are six-pointed.

2.

"The thirteen stars on the obverse of the present half and quarter dollar are six-pointed, while on the reverse they are five-pointed. In explanation of this difference I would state that the reverse of the present half and quarter dollar is a copy of the Great Seal, except that the clouds are omitted. It is evident that heraldry has not taken a very strong hold in these matters in the United States; therefore it is not in the power of any one to say without a doubt why the difference in the stars on the flag and the coins.

"So far as we know, with the exception of the reverse of the present half and quarter dollar, the stars on our coins are copied from the Colonial coins, which were no doubt, made after the manner of English heraldry, while the flag was made up after the design of Washington's coat of arms, containing three five-pointed stars." ■

Collector's Glossary

Heraldry: The practice of devising, blazoning and granting armorial insignia and of tracing and recording genealogies.

Coat of Arms: The particular heraldic bearings (markings) of a person or family as depicted on an escutcheon (shield).

Obverse: The side of a numismatic item which bears the principal design or device. Also called the "heads" side.

Reverse: The side opposite from the obverse. Also called the "tails" side.

3.

1.

1. Morgan dollars, in circulation when this article was written, feature six-pointed stars on the obverse (front) and reverse (back).

2. Barber quarters and half dollars exhibit six-pointed stars on the obverse and five-pointed stars on the reverse.

3. Each of the stars on four dollar gold pieces has five points.

THE BOOKSHELF

by
Thomas V. Haney, N.L.G.
Former Numismatic Editor
of *The New York Times*

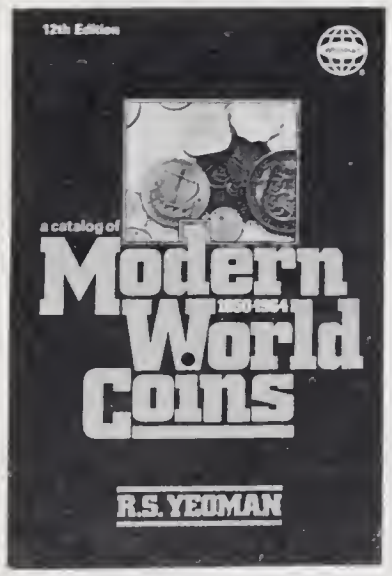
MODERN WORLD COINS

The 12th edition of R.S. Yeoman's *Catalog of Modern World Coins* has been completely revised in appearance and contents. Numismatists who have used the *Brown Book* since its origin in 1957 might not recognize their favorite reference guide from Western Publishing Company.

Edited by Holland Wallace, the Catalog abandoned its former hardback cover in favor of attractive paperback binding. The 512-page volume was published after drastic changes in type face, illustrations and updated tables. It also was printed on less glossy paper.

Numerous new listings and the improved format were designed to make this issue a real working companion of Western's *Coins of the World, 1750-1850,* by William D. Craig and Dick Yeoman's *Current Coins of the World* covering modern coins after 1955. Among the features are updated histories for most countries and items identified by the Yeoman or "Y" numbering system.

Another highlight is the listing of the metallic value of the coins, with information on how to calculate the bullion value of almost every world gold and silver coin from about 1850 to 1950. Chile, Spain, Turkey, West Germany, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Italy are only some of the countries covered through thorough research for updating.



R.S. Yeoman's *Catalog of Modern World Coins* indicates the Bird of Paradise may be found on the coinage of Papua New Guinea from 1894 to the most recent issues.

For example, the Catalog's Brazil data now starts with the first coins of Emperor Dom Pedro II in 1849.

Kenneth E. Bressett was the project supervisor, with Neil Shafer, co-ordinating editor, and Richard Thompsen, associate editor. As in past years, Bressett enlisted the aid of almost 100 world experts for the big roundup of new information.

The volume ($5.95) is available from coin dealers, hobby shops and numerous bookstores. It may also be ordered from Department M, Western Publishing Co., 1220 Mound Ave., Racine, Wis., 53404, in which case $1 for postage and handling must be added.

ERRORS AND VARIETIES

More than 150 varieties of errors and how they come about in minting are covered in the second edition of Alan Herbert's book, *The Official Price Guide of Mint Errors and Varieties.*

The paperback of 184 pages ($3.95) is among the recent publications produced for 1979 by the House of Collectibles, 771 Kirkman Road, Suite 100, Orlando, Fla. 32811. Herbert, well-known columnist, is a specialist in research and writing on errors. He has included considerable information about recent "discoveries" and tables of values in this illustrated treatise.

SOME OTHERS FROM FLORIDA

Other paperbacks from the House of Collectibles are the sixth edition of Bert Harshe's *How to Detect Altered & Counterfeit Coins and Paper Money* ($2.95, 62 pages), with a feature section by Herbert on counterfeit mint errors; the 16th edition of Tom Hudgeon's *The Official Blackbook Price Guide of United States Coins* ($1.95, 208 pages) and a first edition by Tom Hudgeons titled *The Official Blackbook Price Guide of United States Postage Stamps.*

Marc Hudgeons served as co-ordinating editor for both of Tom's books.

Several of the volumes are of pocket size and are rich in data covering the history of

our coinage and stamps. The revised Guide on coins starts with 1616 and the new stamp publication begins with 1847 issues.

All these books are clearly illustrated and include tables on the latest evaluations available at press time.

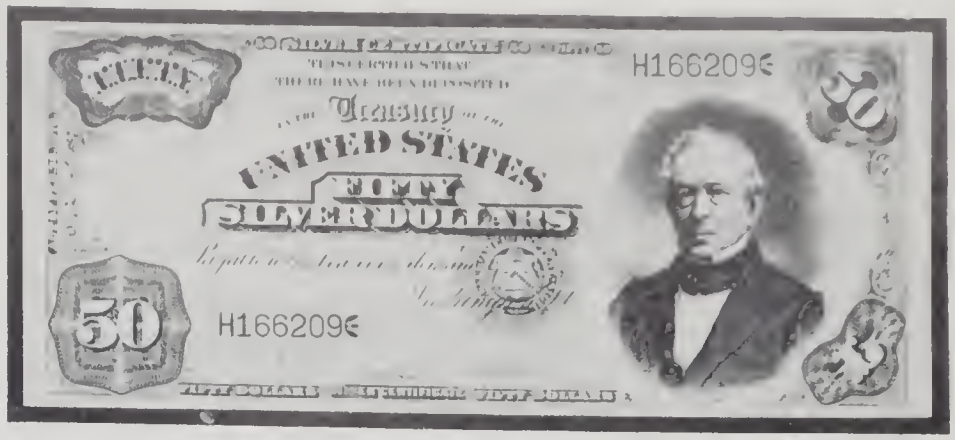
If not available locally from dealers or hobby shops, the books can be ordered directly from the House of Collectibles.

A NUMISMATIC TRIBUTE

The sixth edition of *United States Large Size Paper Money,* formerly compiled by William P. Donlon, is now available. The 172-page paperback, covering currency from 1861 to 1923, provides a fitting memorial to Mr. Donlon, long considered the dean of paper money experts. Donlon passed away in April, 1978.

The volume includes all large U.S. paper money, the first recognized by our Government as official circulating currency.

All Federal reserve notes, demand notes, silver certificates, and national bank notes are covered and very well illustrated. Current values are listed for each item in four grades of condition. How to preserve a collection and how to detect counterfeit bills from the genuine ones are among this catalog's features.



The Series 1891 $50 Silver Certificate is one of many beautiful notes listed in the sixth edition of *United States Large Size Paper Money.* Massachusetts Senator Edward Everett is portrayed on the 7 3/8 by 3⅛ inch note.

Designs of the notes, which many consider the most artistic achievements of our nation in the production of its currency, are appreciated when one studies the illustrations and historical data in this guide.

The volume ($4.95) was updated by A.M. and D. Kagin and produced by the Western Publishing Company. It is being distributed through coin shops, hundreds of book stores and larger stores with hobby departments. It also may be ordered from Department M, Western Publishing Company, 1220 Mound Avenue, Racine, Wis. 53404, with an extra $1 included for postage and handling. ■

HEADS AND TALES Cont'd.

The Ikes underwent distinct changes for our nation's Bicentennial. The dates 1776-1976, engraved under the President's portrait, were added to Gasparro's obverse design. The reverse, chosen in a national contest, was the work of Dennis R. Williams. It depicts a Liberty Bell superimposed on the Moon. ■

For the second time in the history of U.S. coinage, the Philadelphia Mint will place a "P" on a series of coins. The first such placement occurred on the 1942-1945 "Wartime" nickels. Now, the Mint has advised that the "P" mintmark will appear on the new Anthony dollar.

Collector's Glossary

Numismatist: A person knowledgeable in numismatics. Numismatics is the science, study or collecting of coins, paper money and similar objects.

Wartime Nickel: A U.S. five cent piece struck from 1942 to 1945 on planchets composed of copper (56%), silver (35%), and manganese (9%). Wartime nickels may be immediately recognized by a large mintmark above Monticello on the reverse.

Planchet: Coinage blank before striking.

High Relief: A coin featuring design elements which are unusually elevated from the surface.

THE TENNESSEE TORNADO

1960

Out of the hills of Tennessee came one of the true heroines of the 1960 Olympics.

She was number 20 in a long line of 22 children; skinny, beset by all the childhood illnesses, plus double-pneumonia twice, and saddled with a crooked right leg. The first ten years of her life were spent being sick. Her name was Wilma Rudolph.

When she was five, they put a brace on her leg. The following year she commenced a series of treatments that were to last until she was 10 years old. The years were long and tedious but finally the weekly trips to the hospital, the torturous hours of the twisting, pulling, turning treatments, came to an end, and she was forced to wear the brace only occasionally. Then came the day when she no longer needed the brace, and as she watched her mother pack it up for return to the hospital, she felt for the first time in her life that she was a free girl.

Wilma started playing basketball at school, loving the idea of being a participant instead of a spectator. She found she loved sports. She read everything she could get her hands on about basketball; studied the rules; learned how to draw fouls, etc. She learned, too, that a girl active in sports was looked upon with raised eyebrows — the old down-south thinking that "ladies-don't-do-such things".

Wilma liked to run track, her long legs carrying her to easy victories in every race by the time she was fifteen.

It was in her Junior year in high school that her coach first mentioned the Olympic Games. Wilma had no idea what they were. She thought it was just the name of a big track meet. But from that time on, it was just a short step to the try-outs for the Melbourne Olympics in 1956. Wilma captured a bronze medal for the 100-meter relay and her experience served as a springboard to the 1960 Olympics in Rome.

There were 10 women's track and field events in Rome, and it was here that 19 year old Wilma more than vindicated herself. She won three gold medals in the 100 and 200-meter sprints and 100-meter relay, with nary a trace of her old disability as she ". . . poured elegantly over the 100 meters in 24.0 seconds. Such was the acceleration of this long-legged girl." They called her the Tennessee Tornado.

Wilma Rudolph was easily the heroine of the XVII Olympiad. ■

Wilma Rudolph's three gold medals (inset) at the 1960 Rome Games were awarded for her outstanding performance in the 100 and 200-meter dash and the 100-meter relay.

Photo courtesy the Coca-Cola Corp.

Additional Reading: "Wilma" — by Wilma Rudolph

ASK PARAMOUNT

Q. What is a "Black Jack" stamp?

Mr. J.V.B.
Mankato, MN

A. A "Black Jack" is the nickname by which stamp collectors call the U.S. 2¢ Andrew Jackson stamp. Issued in 1863, this stamp was printed with black ink — thus leading to the nickname. The Black Jack has long been one of the most popular U.S. stamps. (See illustration no. 1)

Q. A friend suggested I investigate Eagle Notes as an interesting introduction to large size U.S. currency. What are Eagle Notes and how popular are they?

Dr. W.G.E.
Abilene, TX

A. The Series 1899 $1 Silver Certificates (Friedberg catalogue numbers 226-236), are commonly called "Eagle Notes" by collectors. The front of the note portrays a large eagle perched on a U.S. flag — giving the note its nickname. Because Eagle Notes are among the most attractive and affordable issues of Large Size U.S. currency, they are extremely popular. (See illustration no. 2)

Q. In discussing Trade dollars at my coin club last night, the term "Chop Mark" was used. Unfortunately, I didn't ask what it means. Can you help?

Mrs. K.S.W.
Tampa, FL

A. A "Chop Mark" is a small impression, usually found on Trade dollars, punched by a hand die belonging to Chinese merchants. These coins were Chopmarked by the merchant to signify that the piece had been assayed as to weight and silver content. Chop marks were a sign of acceptance.

Q. I understand the center of Panama's shield represents the Isthmus of Panama, but what do the remaining four segments represent?

Mr. R.J.D.
Upper Darby, PA

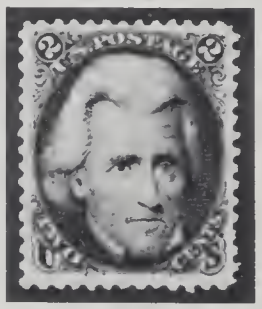
A. The crossed rifle and sword (upper left) symbolize military readiness, the crossed shovel and hoe (upper right) symbolize agriculture. The cornucopia (lower left) represents the abundant land, while the winged wheel (lower right) is a symbol of industry and power. (See illustration no. 3)

Q. How much gold does the 1978 Jamaican $250 Proof gold coin contain?

Mr. E.R.R.
Eugene, OR

A. Exactly 1.25 Troy ounces of pure gold is contained in each 1978 Jamaican $250 Proof gold coin.

1.



2.

3.

If you have a question concerning stamps, coins, or paper money, please address it to: **Charles Surasky, Editor, Paramount Journal, One Paramount Plaza, Englewood, Ohio 45322.** Questions of general interest will be published in the "Ask Paramount" column without revealing the author's identity. Please do not send your coins, stamps or currency with your question — send a hand drawing or photocopy. We welcome all inquiries.

WORLD COIN STATUS REPORT

1978 French FDC Sets — All orders have been shipped.

1978 Jamaica Coronation Coins — Virtually all orders have been shipped.

1978 Turks and Caicos Islands Commonwealth Games Coins — The mint is experiencing production difficulties. As soon as the coins are struck they will be delivered.

1978 Cayman Islands Six Queens Coins — Anticipate shipment by the end of April.

1978 Cayman Islands Proof Sets — Anticipate shipment by the end of April.

1978 Panama 10 Balboa Proof Coins — Virtually all orders have been shipped.

1979 Solomon Islands $100 Gold Coins — Anticipate shipment by the beginning of April.

1978 Turks and Caicos Islands Queen's Beasts Collections — Anticipate shipping the first coin for priority deadline orders by the end of March. Anticipate shipping the first coin for final deadline orders by the end of April.

1978 Bahamas Anniversary Coins — All orders are being shipped within twelve weeks of receipt.

1978 Cayman Islands Regalia Coins — Final deadline orders have been shipped the first silver coin. Anticipate shipment of the first gold coin by the end of March.

1979 British Virgin Islands Coinage — Anticipate shipment by mid-May.

This status report was prepared on March 7, 1979.

PARAMOUNT'S AFTERMARKET BUY LIST

To rebuild our inventory after the recent rush to gold and silver coins, PARAMOUNT'S AFTERMARKET DEPARTMENT WANTS TO BUY A SELECTED NUMBER OF POPULAR PROOF AND UNCIRCULATED COINS! And we are paying the highest prices to obtain the coins we need!

If you possess any of the coins or sets included in the list below, ESPECIALLY THE POPULAR SILVER JUBILEE ISSUES, and want to sell for the highest prices available, simply package your coins securely and send them via registered or insured mail to Paramount.

COIN/SET	ISSUED AT	BUYING AT	INCREASE
1974 Turks and Caicos Islands 100 Crown Uncirculated Coin	$100.00	$130.00	30%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands 100 Crown Proof Coin	$150.00	$170.00	13.3%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands 100 Crown Uncirculated Coin	$100.00	$147.00	47%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands Uncirculated Set	$211.00	$315.00	49.3%
1976 Turks and Caicos Islands 50 Crown Bicentennial Uncirculated Coin	$50.00	$57.50	15%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands 50 Crown Proof Coin	$75.00	$95.00	26.7%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands 20 Crown Proof Coin	$30.00	$37.50	25%
1975 Turks and Caicos Islands 10 Crown Proof Coin	$15.00	$20.00	33.3%

SHIP FOR IMMEDIATE PAYMENT TO:
Paramount International Coin Corporation
One Paramount Plaza • Englewood, Ohio 45322

Paramount reserves the right to return coins at our expense once a desired inventory is achieved.